Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) an autonomous organisation, the University has been conducting on line exams for past several years successfully. The online entrance test called IGNEAT-2009 for engineering degree and diploma programmes of IGNOU scheduled for 31st October, 2009 and 1st November, 2009 proposed by the University could not be conducted due to technical failure of the Online Examination Platform.

Proposed entry of foreign universities

1003. SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:
SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU:
SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) how he would ensure that after the proposed entry of foreign universities they would strictly adhere to the quota laws of the country;

(b) whether foreign universities will have to take clearance of accreditation from the Accreditation Committee for quality control;

(c) whether it is also a fact that after the Bill for allowing the foreign universities to come to the country is passed even Indian universities will have to take clearance from the Accreditation Committee for quality control;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the manner in which his Ministry would ensure that no fly-by-night operators come to the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (e) A law for regulating the entry and operations of foreign education providers is under consideration of the Government.

Barring of M.Phil degree holders from teaching

†1004. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that University Grants Commission (UGC) has barred M.Phil degree holders to teach in universities and degree colleges in 2009;

(b) whether holders of the said degree were qualified to teach so far and they were engaged in the profession in a large number;

(c) whether they have to lose their jobs after this direction; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof and reasons for implementing the order issued on 1st June, 2009?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) The UGC has notified the University Grants Commission (Minimum qualifications required for the appointment and Career Advancement of teachers in Universities and Institutions affiliated to it) (3rd Amendment) Regulation 2009 , providing that qualifying the National Eligibility Test (NET) shall be the minimum eligibility for appointment as teacher with exemption provided to those who have obtained Ph.D degree in accordance with the standards and rigour detailed in the University Grants Commission (Minimum Standards and Procedure for award of M.Phil/Ph.D. Degree) Regulations 2009. The Regulations apply only prospectively and does not apply to regular appointments already made prior to the date of notification of the Regulations pertaining to NET as minimum eligibility *i.e.* 1st June, 2009.

Quality of teaching in higher education is a matter of great concern. When the Pay Review Committee recommendations in respect of teachers in colleges and universities were taken up by the Central Government, the salaries and other allowances for teachers were approved to be higher than those for the Group "A" Civil Services, subject to the eligibility conditions for appointments to teaching positions being tightened. This step, *inter-alia*, would ensure that over time the best talent comes into the academic profession through a process of tightening entry and liberalizing pay and other incentives.

Conference of Commonwealth Education

1005. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has represented the 17th Conference of Commonwealth Education;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the views expressed by Government in the Conference; and

(d) the decisions arrived so far for the minority Muslims, SCs, STs and OBCs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Hon'ble Minister of Human Resource Development, Government of India led a delegation comprising Secretary (School Education and Literacy), Joint Secretary (Distance Learning), Joint Secretary (International Cooperation) and APS to Hon'ble Minister of Human Resource Development that participated in the 17th Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 15-18 June 2009. The focus of the conference was to improve access to early childhood care and education, secondary education, skill development, higher education, quality and professionalism of teachers, good governance, gender mainstreaming, education for respect and understanding, sustainable development, multi-grade teaching, strengthening HIV and AIDS education etc.